

REMARKS

By this amendment, Claims 1, 3, and 18 have been amended. Claim 2 has been canceled. No claims have been added by this amendment. Hence, Claims 1, 3-7, and 15-28 are pending in the application. The amendments to the claims do not add any new matter to the application. All issues raised in the Final Office Action mailed January 15, 2004 are addressed hereinafter.

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

The Examiner is thanked for the telephone interview of March 29, 2004. In that interview, the Examiner indicated that all of the pending claims as amended herein are patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103 over U.S. Patent No. 5,612,865, U.S. Patent No. 6,449,734, U.S. Patent No. 6,185,601, and U.S. Patent No. 6,401,110, taken individually or in combination.

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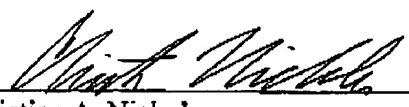
For the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are patentable over the applied references. Accordingly, allowance of all claims is hereby respectfully solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if the Examiner believes that such contact would be helpful in furthering the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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